

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 00812 01 OF 02 211648Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 HA-05 NSC-05 IO-13 PA-01
SP-02 AID-05 EA-10 EUR-12 CU-04 USIA-06 OES-07
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /109 W
-----072845 221206Z /23

P R 211303Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1852
INFO USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GABORONE 0812

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM BC
SUBJ: RECOGNIZING POSITIVE HUMAN RIGHTS BEHAVIOR IN BOTSWANA

REF: (A) STATE 45685, (B) GABORONE 0255, (C) 77 GABORONE 3067

1. SUMMARY: IN KEEPING WITH OUR EARLIER SUGGESTIONS FOR
RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENT KHAMA'S OUTSTANDING HUMAN RIGHTS
RECORD, TO BE CARRIED OUT UNDER SECTION 116 (E) OF FFA,
HEREWITH IS OUR REVISED AND ELABORATED PROPOSAL OF CHOICE.
IT IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE RECOGNITION AND PERPETUATION OF
BOTSWANA'S POSITIVE HUMAN RIGHTS POSTURE, MAXIMUM DISTRI-
BUTION OF IMPACT (CONSISTENT WITH AID'S NEW DIRECTIONS),
COST EFFECTIVENESS AND RELATIVE EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION.
WE SEEK TO PROVIDE SOME 50 MOTION PICTURE PROJECTORS,
SPECIALLY SELECTED FILMS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT TO SECON-
DARY SCHOOLS AND DISTRICT COUNCILS THROUGHOUT BOTSWANA.
APPROXIMATE COST: 50,000 DOLLARS. WE RECOMMEND QUICK ACTION
TO (A) COUNTER REGIONAL AND INTERNAL PRESSURES MILITATING
AGAINST MODERATION AND NON-RACIALISM; (B) POSSIBLY EXPLOIT
PRESIDENT KHAMA'S TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES THIS SPRING;
AND (C) PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TO SOVIET AND PRC PROPAGANDA IN
THE COUNTRYSIDE. ACTION REQUESTED: PROMPT APPROVAL.

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PAGE 02 GABORO 00812 01 OF 02 211648Z

2. REFERENCE C (PARA 5) LISTED SIX IDEAS BY WHICH FUNDS FROM
SECTION 116 (E) OF THE FFA MIGHT BE EMPLOYED IN
RECOGNIZING BOTSWANA'S LAUDABLE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. WHILE
WE STILL CONSIDER ALL THESE SUGGESTIONS WORTH SERIOUS REVIEW,
WE HAVE SINCE MODIFIED THE ONE CONTAINED IN (5,C), I.E.
PROVISION OF MOBILE MOVIE PROJECTION VANS, TO MAKE IT HAVE
EVEN GREATER EFFECT THROUGHOUT BOTSWANA. WE BELIEVE THIS IS

NOW THE IDEA WITH MOST APPEAL AND IMPACT AND WISH TO
OFFER IT FOR URGENT AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION.

3. THE REVISED PROPOSAL IS AS FOLLOWS:

ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS OF INSURING BOTSWANA'S
CONTINUED ADHERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS, THE RULE OF LAW AND
THE MAINTENANCE OF A TRULY NON-RACIAL SOCIETY IS, BY
EXAMPLE, TO INSTILL INTO ITS YOUNG PEOPLE AN APPRECIATION
OF AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY AND THE WORTH OF THE
INDIVIDUAL.

FILMS, ESPECIALLY THOSE DEALING WITH SPORTS AND MUSICAL
EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES, ARE IDEAL VEHICLES FOR THIS MESSAGE.
THEY HAVE GREAT APPEAL; THEIR "MORAL UPLIFT" CONTENT IS VERY
LOW KEY, IMPLIED RATHER THAN EXPLICIT; AND THEY PROVIDE OBJECT
LESSONS IN THE ADVANTAGES AND FEASIBILITY OF A SOCIETY IN
WHICH HUMAN POTENTIAL IS MAXIMIZED BY RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS
OF INDIVIDUALS OF ALL COLORS AND ETHIC ORIGINS.

WE PROPOSE TO PLACE A 16MM SOUND PROJECTOR AND SCREEN
(ALONG WITH PORTABLE GENERATOR, IF NECESSARY) IN EACH OF
BOTSWANA'S 35 SECONDARY SCHOOLS (17 GOVERNMENT, 18 PRIVATE),
AS WELL AS WITH EACH OF THE TEN DISTRICT COUNCILS. WE WOULD
ALSO SUPPLY APPROPRIATE FILMS, WHICH COULD BE SHIPPED FROM
PLACE TO PLACE ON A WEEKLY BASIS SO THAT EACH SCHOOL OR DISTRICT
COUNCIL COULD HAVE A WEEKLY FILM PROGRAM.

50 PROJECTORS (TO PROVIDE FIVE SPARES) AT APPROXIMATELY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GABORO 00812 01 OF 02 211648Z

600 DOLLARS EACH, WOULD COST ABOUT 30,000 DOLLARS. FORTY-
FIVE SCREENS WOULD BE SOME 4,500 DOLLARS; GENERATORS MIGHT BE
10,000 DOLLARS AND FILM PURCHASES (AS ADDITIONS TO THE USIS
FILM LIBRARY) WOULD BE PERHAPS ANOTHER 5,000 DOLLARS. TOTAL:
APPROXIMATELY 50,000 DOLLARS.

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00812 02 OF 02 221145Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GABORONE 0812

4. WE HAVE DROPPED THE IDEA OF A MOBILE PROJECTION UNIT BECAUSE THE GOB INFORMATION SERVICES HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PLANS TO INAUGURATE TWO MOBILE UNITS, ONE EACH BASED IN FRANCISTOWN AND GABORONE, TO BRING FILMS TO OUTLYING AREAS. WE BELIEVE IT MUCH MORE PRACTICAL TO LET GOB RUN ITS OWN MOBILE FILM PRORAM (WITH ATTENDANT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MAINTENANCE, HIRING PROJECTIONISTS, ETC.). FOR THE PRICE OF EVEN ONE MOBILE UNIT, WE COULD SUPPLY MANY MORE STATIONARY PROJECTORS WHICH, REMAINING IN PLACE, WOULD PROVIDE SIMULTANEOUS FILM PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT BOTSWANA TO STUDENTS AND GENERAL PUBLIC ALIKE. THE BROAD COVERAGE OF THIS PROPOSAL IS PARTICULARLY CONSISTENT WITH AID'S NEW DIRECTIONS, I.E. PROVIDING BENEFITS TO THE "POOREST OF THE POOR". IT WILL BE WITHIN REACH OF MOST INHABITED AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, WILL SERVE ALL BOTSWANA, AND WILL AFFORD MEANS FOR THE GOB TO SCREEN THEIR OWN INSTRUCTIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT-ORIENTED FILMS AS WELL AS OURS.

5. BECAUSE WE PROPOSE TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT TO SCHOOLS AND DISTRICT COUNCILS, THIS PROGRAM WOULD REQUIRE CO-ORDINATION WITH AND APPROVAL BY THE INFORMATION SERVICES, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SCHOOLS) AND MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LANDS (DISTRICT COUNCILS). WE ENVISION NO PROBLEM IN THIS REGARD.

6. REASONS FOR URGENT ACTION ON THIS PROPOSAL:
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PAGE 02 GABORO 00812 02 OF 02 221145Z

A. PRESSURES WHICH THREATEN BOTSWANA'S TRADITIONAL SOCIAL STABILITY AND MODERATION ARE BUILDING RAPIDLY, EXASPERATED BY THE LARGE REFUGEE PRESENCE, EVENTS IN SURROUNDING COUNTRIES (E.G., THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT) AND ESPECIALLY BY EXTERNAL ACTIONS AGAINST BOTSWANA, SUCH AS THE FEBRUARY 27 KAZUNGULA RAID BY RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES (17 BOTSWANA DEAD). PRESIDENT KHAMA BADLY NEEDS PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT SO THAT HE CAN COUNTER THESE PRESSURES AND CONTINUE TO BE AN INFLUENTIAL EXAMPLE TO HIS COUNTRY IN LEADING IT ALONG PATHS OF MODERATION AND HUMAN DIGNITY.

B. PRESIDENT KHAMA IS TO RECEIVE AN HONORARY DEGREE AT HARVARD THIS SPRING (GABORONE 0715) AND HOPES TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AT THAT TIME. WE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING: IT WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE, GRACIOUS AND MUCH-APPRECIATED

RECOGNITION OF KHAMA'S LIFELONG CHAMPIONING OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IF PRESIDENT CARTER COULD MAKE THE PROPOSED PRESENTATION
UNDER THE AEGIS OF SECTION 116 (E).

C. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOVIETS AND CHINESE HAVE VERY
ACTIVE FILM OUTREACH PROGRAMS WHICH ARE SERVICING MANY PARTS
OF BOTSWANA NOT NOW RECEIVING FILM ENTERTAINMENT FROM ANY OTHER
SOURCE. WE BELIEVE OUT FILMS, IF CAREFULLY CHOSEN, ARE BOUND
TO HAVE MORE APPEAL THAN THE OFTEN HEAVY-HANDED OFFERINGS OF
OUR COMMUNIST COLLEAGUES. HOWEVER, TO PROVE THIS, WE MUST
GET OUR FILMS TO THE PEOPLE; AND MEANWHILE IN MANY PLACES THEY
ARE BY DEFAULT BEING FED A STEADY DIET OF USSR OR PRC
PROPAGANDA.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: PROMPT APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF THE
ABOVE PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE GOB WITH MOTION PICTURE PROJECTORS,
FILMS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT, TO BE FINANCED UNDER SECTION
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PAGE 03 GABORO 00812 02 OF 02 221145Z

116 (E), UP TO A TOTAL OF 50,000 DOLLARS. WHEN WE RECEIVE YOUR
FAVORABLE REPLY, WE SHALL PROCEED TO COORDINATE WITH APPROPRIATE
GOB MINISTRIES.
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Message Attributes

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